CONFERENCE ON DISARMAMENT

CD/1266
CD/NTB/WP.140
6 July 1994

Original: ENGLISH

LETTER DATED 4 JULY 1994 FROM THE PERMANENT REPRESENTATIVE OF INDIA, IN HIS CAPACITY AS COORDINATOR OF THE GROUP OF 21 ON THE ITEM "NUCLEAR TEST BAN", ADDRESSED TO THE PRESIDENT OF THE CONFERENCE ON DISARMAMENT TRANSMITTING THE TEXT OF A STATEMENT BY THE GROUP OF 21 ON A COMPREHENSIVE NUCLEAR TEST BAN TREATY

In my capacity as Coordinator of the Group of 21 on the item "Nuclear Test Ban", I have pleasure in submitting herewith a Group of 21 Working Paper entitled "Group of 21 statement on a Comprehensive Nuclear Test Ban Treaty".

I would be grateful if this Working Paper could be distributed as an official document of the Conference on Disarmament as well as a Working Paper of the Ad Hoc Committee on a Nuclear Test Ban.

(Signed): Satish Chandra
Ambassador
Permanent Representative of India

GE.94-63002

Working Paper

Group of 21 statement on Comprehensive Test Ban Treaty (CTBT) in the Ad hoc Committee on Nuclear Test Ban on 1st July, 1994

The G-21 had stated in its two Working Papers CD/1231 and D/1252 that negotiations of a Comprehensive Test Ban Treaty (CTBT) should be concluded in 1994. The Group has also conveyed its own views that the verification regime of CTBT should be internationally supervised and technically effective. Moreover, it is important that this verification regime should also be cost effective.

At this crucial stage of negotiations, the Group is satisfied to note that seismic technique has been approved by the Working Group I on Verification. It has also noted that following the pattern of last year, there have been extensive and relevant expert presentations on non-seismic techniques for a CTBT in Working Group I. At present, the Group feels that many expert presentations have helped the delegations to judge on the issue of non-seismic techniques to be incorporated in the CTBT. These presentations have further strengthened the views of the G-21 as stated in its Working Paper No. CD/1252 that an evolutionary approach to the verification regime is preferable.

The organisation of a CTBT should promote cooperation and assistance among the State Parties to enable them to use the technology of the verification system for the effective implementation of the Treaty.

Secondly, it is essential that the organisation of a future CTBT should exchange and analyse seismic and non-seismic data. This is relevant because the majority of States may not be in a position to analyse the data. This point has already been mentioned in the Group's working Paper No. CD/1252. The Technical Secretariat should have the capacity and the responsibility of analysing not only the data received from the global monitoring system but also from the National Technical Means (NTM). The inter-governmental body(ies) of the organisation should be responsible for decision in this regard.

The Group of 21 welcomes the papers dated 29th June, 1994 submitted by the Chairmen of the two Working Groups on Verification and Legal and Institutional Issues respectively. Negotiations should now be based on the draft treaty language. This should lead to formation of a rolling text.